

# **INFLATABLE BALLOON CATHETER WITH PURGE MECHANISM AND METHOD**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved balloon catheter which includes a purge mechanism for purging air from the catheter prior to use. The purge mechanism is sized to allow air to pass through, but highly restricts the flow of liquids. Air remaining in the catheter after purging is allowed to diffuse through the balloon prior to use. The mechanism is especially useful with low-pressure, gas-permeable, compliant balloons.

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